

Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Original) A human cell composition for use in producing one or more cytokines, comprising:

a human cell line characterized by expression of the coding sequence for an anti-apoptotic protein and a level of cytokine production that is at least two times (2X) the level of cytokine production exhibited by a corresponding parental cell line that does not express the coding sequence for the anti-apoptotic protein.

2. (Original) The cell line composition according to claim 1, wherein said anti-apoptotic protein is CrmA.

3. (Currently amended) A human cell line for use in producing one or more cytokines, prepared by the process comprising:

obtaining a parental human cell line capable of producing one or more cytokines;
and

modifying the cells by introducing an expression vector comprising the coding sequence for CrmA operably linked to a first promoter, and additional control elements necessary for expression in human cells, into the cells of said cell line; and

screening and selecting for CrmA-expressing cells; and

treating said CrmA-expressing cells in a manner effective to result in enhanced cytokine production, wherein said modified and treated cell line is characterized by a level of cytokine production that is at least two times (2X) the level of cytokine production by the corresponding not-modified parental cell line.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The human cell line according to claim 3, wherein the process further comprising comprises:

modifying cells of said parental cell line by introducing a second expression vector comprising: (i) the coding sequence for PKR operably linked to a second promoter; and (ii) additional control elements necessary for expression in human cells, into the cells of said cell line, wherein said introduction of said first expression vector to said cells is prior, at the same time, or after said introduction of said second expression vector to said cells.

6. (Currently amended) The human cell line according to claim 5, wherein the process further ~~comprising~~ comprises:

treating said CrmA and PKR overexpressing cells of said human cell line in a manner effective to result in enhanced cytokine production, wherein said modified and treated cell line is characterized by a level of cytokine production that is at least two times (2X) the level of cytokine production by the corresponding not-modified parental cell line.

7. (Previously presented) The human cell according to claim 6, wherein treating means subjecting said modified cells to one or both of priming and inducing.

8. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 7, wherein priming means exposing said modified cells to phorbol myristate acetate (PMA).

Claims 9-10 (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 7, wherein inducing means exposing said cells to at least one non-microbial inducing agent comprising poly(I):poly(C) (poly IC).

Claims 12-24 (canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The human cell line according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 3, wherein treating means subjecting said modified cells to one or both of priming and inducing.

26. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 25, wherein priming means exposing said modified cells to phorbol myristate acetate (PMA).

Claims 27-28 (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 25, wherein inducing means exposing said cells to at least one non-microbial inducing agent comprising poly(I):poly(C)(poly IC).

Claim 30 (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 3, wherein said parental human cell line is also capable of expressing PKR, and wherein the process further comprises screening and selecting for PKR overexpressing cells that exhibit at least a 2-fold (2X) increase in PKR activity, expression and/or production.

32. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 31, wherein the process further comprising:

treating said PKR overexpressing cells in a manner effective to result in enhanced cytokine production, wherein said modified and treated cell line is characterized by a level of cytokine production that is at least two times (2X) the level of cytokine production by the corresponding not-modified parental cell line.

33. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 32, wherein treating means subjecting said modified cells to phorbol myristate acetate (PMA).

34. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 33, wherein priming means exposing said modified cells to phorbol myristate acetate (PMA).

Claim 35-36 (canceled)

37. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 33, wherein inducing means exposing said cells to at least one non-microbial inducing agent comprising poly(I):poly(C)(poly IC).

Claim 38 (canceled)

39. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 3, wherein said first expression vector further comprises a first selectable marker encoding nucleic acid sequence; and wherein said screening and selecting for Crm-A-expression cells mean culturing said modified cells in medium containing a first selection agent to select for Crm-A-expressing cells.

40. (Previously presented) The human cell line according to claim 5, wherein said second expression vector further comprises a second selectable marker encoding nucleic acid sequence; and wherein said screening and selecting for PKR overexpressing cells mean culturing said modified cells in medium containing a second selection agent to select for PKR overexpressing cells.